

ADEN**Arabia Infelix**

Detailed information on the situation in Yemen comes from Neil McLean, a member of the British Parliament. In a report published in part in the *London Times*, McLean notes that he was in Yemen half a dozen times in 1963. "I have traveled, often on foot or by camel, over many of the great mountain ranges of north and central Yemen and across the rocky plains and arid deserts of east Yemen, all of which are under royalist control. . . . I did not

Abroad

visit the main cities, as these are still in Egyptian and republican hands, but on one occasion I stayed with Prince Abdullah Bin al Hassan at his headquarters within 18 miles of Sana." McLean confirms the presence in Yemen of "more than 30,000 Egyptian troops, equipped with Russian tanks, guns and aircraft. The war is said to have already cost Egypt a total of 8,000 soldiers killed and at least \$500,000 a day. Without Russian technical help and military equipment, and dollars from America, President Nasser could not continue the war for long on the present scale." The International Red Cross mission has corroborated McLean's eye-witnessing of many Egyptian "air attacks on villages, made with high explosives, napalm and some form of chemical bombs." He explains the complex international significance of the war in Yemen: "Nasser invaded the Yemen as a first step to extend his influence into Saudi Arabia. He wished to destroy the monarchy in Saudi Arabia and ease the British out of Aden. For he coveted the oil wealth of Arabia and the Gulf. The Russians approved, as they felt it would weaken the ties between the Middle East and the West. They are now building a large new airfield just north of Sana which will give them direct air transit facilities to Africa." He concludes: "The British Government were right not to have recognized Sallal's Republic, for it has no popular support and would have collapsed long ago but for the presence of the Egyptian expeditionary force. . . . The Yemenis could easily reach a compromise among themselves. . . . The time has come . . . to take the necessary steps to ensure the withdrawal of the Egyptian troops, and to bring an end to the war in Yemen."

SAIGON**Nobody But Us Buddhists**

The Buddhist leaders who directed the campaign to overthrow the Diem regime held a four-day convention that ended January 3. At the conclusion they issued the charter of a "unified Buddhist Church," for which they alleged the support of the eleven largest sects of Vietnamese Buddhists. The charter's most significant section provides for establishment of an "institute for secular affairs." Governed by an eight-man commission, this is to be the political arm of the unified Church. It will extend its organization to each of South Vietnam's forty-two pro-

vinces. Experienced observers point out that, through the persons of many of its founders, the new Church and institute are already closely linked with the National Liberation Front, political arm of the Communists.

ZANZIBAR**No Time for Laggards**

Ex-Mau Mau John Okello, "Field Marshal" of the first stage of the Communist coup, is a man who likes to keep his desk top clear. Five minutes after former Education Minister Shaikh Muhsin surrendered to the new government on January 14, Okello announced he would be hanged forthwith along with assorted colleagues. "I must do the job quickly," he explained, "so that stability returns to the island." Later the same day he strung up former Finance Minister Shakh Juma Aley and assistant Minister Rashidi Hamadi Othman (along with a thousand or two non-ministers). He then broadcast an order for another former minister, Ilel Salim, to report at once to the police for hanging. Otherwise, Okello promised, he would soak Salim in gasoline and put a match to him. "Everything is going splendidly," revolutionary President Karume observed to an interviewer that afternoon. "The entire country is delighted with the revolution."



King, *Daily Telegraph*, Australia

Ben Roth Agency

"Me Tarzan, him only old Jane."

MOSCOW**Sorrows of Atheism**

Here as throughout Russia the still existing churches were jammed with worshipers during the holiday season. The foreign services of Tass and the official radio reported this fulsomely, as proving Soviet freedom of religion. The internal press and radio-TV mounted a furious campaign against "obsolete religious superstitions" and all their works. Christening, confession and fasting were denounced for "harming the health of the credulous." Babies (the spokesman of the Health Ministry declared) caught diseases of skin, ears and eyes from christening; "so-called confession" led to a fungus infection communicated by the "dirty" stole which the priest places on the head of the confessant in the Orthodox ritual; the big meal following a fast brought serious digestive trouble. One philosophic commentator attacked religious morality as merely "egoism" because it teaches love of others not for their sake but only to earn a good lot in Paradise.

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